Appl. No. 09/648,642 Amdt. dated March 22, 2004 Preliminary Amendment

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

New claims 27-42 find support in claims 1-26. Claim 27 corresponds to claims 1 and 20, with the exception that claim 27 is directed to changes in expression levels that occur in a reference animal subjected to short term caloric restriction. Support for this limitation is found, for example, at Column 9, lines 39-50. Support for claim 28 is found in Column 9, line 44. Claim 29 is supported at Column 9, lines 66-67. Claim 30 is supported by claim 19. Claim 31 is supported by claim 23. Claims 32-35 find support in claims 10-13, respectively. Claims 36 and 37 are supported by claims 5 and 6, respectively. Claim 38 finds support in claim 14 and at Column 17, line 3. Claims 39-42 find support in claims 15-18, respectively.

## **CONCLUSION**

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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